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12  
13 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
14 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
15 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

16 In re  
17 ANTHONY SCOTT LEVANDOWSKI,  
18  
19 Debtor.

20 ANTHONY SCOTT LEVANDOWSKI,  
21 Plaintiff,  
22 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,  
23 Defendant.

Bankruptcy Case No. 20-30242 (HLB)

Chapter 11

Hon. Hannah L. Blumenstiel

Adv. Proceeding No. 20-03050\_

**GOOGLE LLC'S MEMORANDUM OF  
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT  
OF ITS MOTION TO INTERVENE**

Date: September 3, 2020  
Time: 2:00 p.m. (PST)  
Place: United States Bankruptcy Court  
450 Golden Gate Ave.  
Courtroom 19, 16th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 1. The Debtor Anthony Levandowski recently filed this proceeding against Uber  
3 Technologies, Inc. (“Uber”) seeking to enforce his rights under an indemnity agreement with Uber  
4 and objecting to Uber’s proof of claim, which is entirely contingent on the enforceability of that  
5 same agreement. Google LLC (“Google”), the largest creditor in this bankruptcy, and the ultimate  
6 beneficiary of the Uber indemnity, now seeks to intervene in this critical proceeding.

7 2. The Debtor filed the bankruptcy case on March 4, 2020, just hours after a \$179  
8 million state court judgment was entered against him in favor of Google. That judgment arose  
9 from a unanimous arbitral finding that the Debtor, who was an early employee of Google’s self-  
10 driving car business, had violated his contractual, statutory and tort duties to Google, with a view  
11 towards benefiting Uber’s own self-driving car venture. Specifically, the arbitration panel found  
12 that the Debtor, while still a Google employee, had engaged in stealth negotiations with Uber’s  
13 prior management to form a new company to compete with Google, staffed his secret company  
14 with Google engineers, and then sold the company to Uber for a reported \$680 million.

15 3. The Debtor’s only prospect of fully satisfying his liability to Google in this  
16 bankruptcy is to recover under the Indemnification Agreement he signed with Uber in 2016. That  
17 agreement was drafted specifically to reimburse the Debtor for any civil liability arising from his  
18 wrongful conduct against Google. The agreement specifically states that Uber must indemnify the  
19 Debtor if his “former employer” (i.e., Google) sued him for a variety of enumerated claims,  
20 including any breach of the Debtor’s duty of loyalty or of his non-solicitation and non-competition  
21 covenants owed to Google—the very claims successfully brought by Google in its arbitration  
22 against him.

23 4. Because Uber argues in its proof of claim that its indemnity obligations should be  
24 rescinded, the Debtor filed this proceeding to object to that proof of claim and seek specific  
25 performance of the Indemnification Agreement. This proceeding, therefore, strikes at the very  
26 core of the recoveries in this bankruptcy case, and is tightly intertwined with the administration  
27 and liquidation of the estate’s greatest asset, the indemnity. Indeed, as the Uber proof of claim  
28

1 itself makes clear, the outcome of the dispute over the indemnity will likely be dispositive of *all* of  
2 the major claims in this case.

3         5.         Because Google’s recovery on its claim against the Debtor depends in large part on  
4 the outcome of this proceeding, Google has a significant interest in making sure the Uber  
5 indemnity is enforced, and can intervene without imposing any additional administrative costs to  
6 the estate. Google also approaches the indemnity dispute from a unique perspective. It is the  
7 “former employer” specifically referenced in the Indemnification Agreement. It is also the victim  
8 of the Debtor’s illegal scheme to compete against Google using employees he poached from  
9 Google for his and Uber’s benefit while still working for and being paid by Google. Unlike the  
10 Debtor, then, Google approaches this dispute without any conflict of interest or unclean hands.  
11 Further, Google is already quite familiar with the facts underlying the Debtor’s indemnity claim,  
12 having investigated and litigated issues arising from the events that unfolded in 2015 and 2016 for  
13 several years.

14         6.         The Debtor has no objection to this intervention, Uber will not suffer any  
15 cognizable prejudice from Google’s involvement in this case, and having all three parties litigating  
16 in the same forum over the same issues—the most important issues in this bankruptcy—will be the  
17 most efficient and just way to resolve the parties’ disputes over the indemnity. Accordingly,  
18 Google asks this Court to allow it to intervene and present arguments and evidence in this  
19 proceeding.

20 **II.     BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

21 **A.     The Debtor’s Illegal Solicitation of Google Employees and Trade Secret Theft**

22         7.         Before this bankruptcy, the lawsuits and his criminal prosecution, the Debtor was a  
23 well-paid Google employee. *See* Declaration of Alex Gorin (“Gorin Decl.”) Ex. A (Corrected  
24 Final Award (Dec. 23, 2019), redacted (“CFA”)), at 20, 36, 42. The Debtor joined Google in  
25 2007, and worked on Google’s self-driving car initiative, ultimately becoming the leader of a  
26

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27 <sup>1</sup> The facts in this section are derived from the unanimous findings of the arbitral panel in  
28 Google’s litigation against the Debtor (Gorin Decl. Ex. A) and Judge Alsup’s findings in the  
Waymo LLC-Uber litigation (*id.* Ex. B).

1 group responsible for developing proprietary light-detecting and ranging sensors for self-driving  
2 vehicles. *See id.*

3 8. In 2015, Google was way ahead of Uber in the self-driving car space. The Debtor,  
4 fully aware of Uber's desire to catch up with Google, secretly approached some former Uber  
5 executives in the summer of 2015 with a solution to their problem—he could bring his know-how  
6 and a team of Google engineers over to Uber. *See id.* at 34-35. With that in mind, and  
7 unbeknownst to Google, the Debtor and Uber's prior management entered into negotiations in  
8 2015 and 2016 and collaborated to create a new company, Ottomotto LLC ("Otto"), so that it  
9 could be staffed with Google engineers and then sold to Uber after the Debtor's departure from  
10 Google. *See id.* at 35, 38-41.

11 9. The Debtor left Google in January 2016 to further carry out this plan. *See id.* at 35,  
12 37, 39-41. A final term sheet for Uber's acquisition of his newly formed company Otto was  
13 signed just a few weeks later in February, and the final merger agreement for Uber to acquire Otto  
14 was executed in April 2016. *See id.* at 40-42.

15 10. The former Uber executives in place at the time were aware of the Debtor's  
16 disloyalty to Google and, in fact, encouraged it during their covert negotiations in 2015 and 2016.  
17 The Debtor, in turn, took actions to assist Uber at Google's expense. He convinced at least 29  
18 Google employees to leave and join his newly-formed company, Otto, which he then secretly sold  
19 to Uber. *See id.* at 41. As he explained to Uber executives at that time, those departures would  
20 "damage Google" because "they were going right across the street to the competitor." *Id.* at 51.  
21 Before leaving Google, the Debtor also stole a treasure trove of Google files and trade secrets,  
22 including thousands of computer files that he took before leaving Google and accessed after he  
23 left.

24 **B. Uber's Agreement to Indemnify the Debtor**

25 11. Given all that he had already done—soliciting dozens of Google employees, taking  
26 Google's proprietary information and secretly working with Uber to compete against Google—the  
27 Debtor knew he was facing enormous legal exposure from Google. So, shortly after resigning  
28

1 from Google, he demanded an indemnity from Uber, arguing that this indemnity was “critical,”  
2 and he “wouldn’t have done [the Otto deal] without it.” *Id.* at 52.

3 12. Uber acquiesced, and signed the Indemnification Agreement with the Debtor on  
4 April 11, 2016, the same day Uber signed the merger agreement to acquire Otto. *See* Dkt. No. 1  
5 (Compl.) ¶ 1, Ex. A. Uber did so even though its executives at the time were aware that the  
6 Debtor had engaged in numerous “bad acts” that would trigger Uber’s indemnity obligations if  
7 Google ever sued the Debtor. *See, e.g., id.* at 1, § 2.1 (provisions in agreement specifying “Bad  
8 Acts” triggers of indemnity obligations).

9 13. The Indemnification Agreement provides the Debtor and some of his defecting  
10 Google colleagues (including a former Google employee, Lior Ron) an *unlimited* indemnity for  
11 claims brought by their “Former Employer”—that is, Google. *Id.* at 1. Uber agreed to indemnify  
12 them for any judgment (and other costs) arising from specific “bad acts,” including any “breach”  
13 of a “duty of loyalty” owed to Google, or any breach of a “non-solicitation” or “non-competition”  
14 agreement with Google. *Id.* at § 2.1(a)(ii)-(iii). Uber also agreed to indemnify the Debtor, Ron  
15 and the others for any Google claim arising from the “misappropriation” of any of Google’s  
16 “intellectual property, including ... trade secrets.” *Id.* at § 2.1(a)(i). Uber further agreed to  
17 advance any “Expenses” arising from such claims, defined to include any “judgment[,],”  
18 “award[,],” “damages,” litigation costs, attorney fees or interest. *Id.* at § 2.3(a) & § 1 Definitions.

19 14. In March 2016, before closing its deal with the Debtor and signing the  
20 Indemnification Agreement, Uber retained Stroz Friedberg, LLC, an outside security and forensics  
21 firm, to carry out a diligence investigation of the Debtor’s misconduct towards Google. As part of  
22 its investigation, Stroz Friedberg obtained 35 of the Debtor’s computers and devices, forensically  
23 examined them and interviewed him over the course of several days.

24 15. As the Indemnification Agreement makes clear, whatever “bad acts” that were  
25 revealed to or discovered by Stroz Friedberg at any point during its investigation of the Debtor  
26 would be fully indemnifiable by Uber. *See id.* at 1-2 (“any claim that has arisen out of or resulted  
27 from any Pre-Signing Bad Acts ... that reasonably arises or results from any facts, circumstances,  
28 activities or events contained or disclosed on the face of such final report shall, subsection to

1 Section 2(b)(ii), constitute an Indemnifiable Claim.”). Stroz Friedberg’s investigation confirmed  
2 that, while still employed at Google, the Debtor had solicited dozens of Google employees to  
3 leave with him, formed a company to compete with Google and negotiated the sale of that  
4 company to Uber. Stroz Friedberg also discovered and disclosed to Uber’s prior leadership that  
5 the Debtor had taken Google trade secrets and proprietary information, including that he had  
6 downloaded thousands of Google proprietary files shortly before leaving Google and accessed  
7 some after his departure.

8 **C. The Lawsuits That Followed**

9 16. The Uber-Debtor acquisition deal for Otto was publicly announced in August  
10 2016.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after that, in October 2016, Google sued the Debtor and Ron in arbitration,  
11 asserting claims for breach of contract, breach of tort duties and statutory unfair competition. That  
12 arbitration focused on the Debtor’s illegal solicitation of Google employees and unlawful  
13 competition against Google.

14 17. Then, in February 2017, Waymo LLC—Google’s self-driving business that was  
15 spun off as a separate company in 2016—sued Uber in federal court in this district. In that action,  
16 Waymo alleged several counts of trade secret misappropriation, patent infringement and unfair  
17 competition. *See Waymo LLC v. Uber Techs., Inc.*, No. 3:17-cv-00939 (N.D. Cal. filed Feb. 23,  
18 2017). In May 2017, Judge Alsup granted, in part, Waymo’s request for a preliminary injunction.  
19 *See Gorin Decl. Ex. B*, at 23. Judge Alsup found that “Waymo has made a strong showing that  
20 Levandowski absconded with over 14,000 files from Waymo, evidently to have them available to  
21 consult on behalf of Otto and Uber.” *Id.* at 7. Judge Alsup also found that “it would strain  
22 credulity to imagine that Levandowski plundered Waymo’s vault the way he did with no intent to  
23 make sure of the downloaded trove,” and “that Uber knew or at least should have known of the  
24 downloading but nevertheless proceeded to bring Levandowski and Otto on board.” *Id.* at 7, 9-10.

25  
26  
27 <sup>2</sup> The Debtor’s and Uber’s Otto deal was not publicly announced until August 2016 to minimize  
28 the chance that Google would become aware of the Debtor’s breach and withhold his final bonus  
payment. *See Gorin Decl. Ex. A (CFA)*, at 41-42.

1 Ultimately, in February 2018, after a year of litigation and five days into a jury trial, Waymo and  
2 Uber settled the federal court case.

3 18. Meanwhile, in Google’s arbitration against the Debtor and Ron, the three arbitrator  
4 panel held a two-week hearing in April and May 2018 with over 30 fact witnesses and over 600  
5 exhibits. *See id.* Ex. A (CFA), at 11. In March 2019, the panel issued a unanimous interim award  
6 in Google’s favor, and then issued a unanimous final award on December 6, 2019. *See id.* at 123.  
7 In its final award, the arbitral panel awarded Google a net amount from the Debtor of  
8 \$174,786,091.24 (excluding joint and several portions of the award). *See id.* Ex. C (state court  
9 judgment).

10 19. On January 9, 2020, Google filed a petition to confirm the award in California  
11 Superior Court. *See Google LLC v. Levandowski and Ron*, CPF-20-516982 (S.F. Cty. Super. Ct.  
12 Mar. 4, 2020). That petition was granted, and the state court judgment was entered on March 4,  
13 2020. *See Gorin Decl.* Ex. C. The Debtor has appealed the state court order confirming the  
14 arbitral award and entering the judgment, and that appeal is still pending. Meanwhile, post-  
15 judgment interest on the judgment is accruing at a rate of 10% *per annum* (*see* Cal. Civ. Proc.  
16 Code § 685.010), and if the debt is not discharged, will continue to accrue post-petition. *See In re*  
17 *Hamilton*, 785 F. App’x 438, 439 (9th Cir. 2019) (“interest at the state’s judgment interest rate  
18 continues to accrue postpetition on nondischargeable debts”) (quotations and citations omitted).

19 **D. The Debtor’s Bankruptcy**

20 20. After Google obtained its final arbitral award against the Debtor and Lior Ron,  
21 Uber honored its indemnification obligations to Ron under the Indemnification Agreement, paying  
22 Ron’s full \$9-plus million share of the award owed to Google. Uber, however, refused to do the  
23 same for the Debtor.

24 21. So, on the same day Google’s \$179 million state court judgment was entered  
25 against him, the Debtor filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on March 4, 2020. As the  
26 Debtor explained in his April 2020 status conference statement to this Court, he filed bankruptcy  
27 specifically to “stay Google’s collection of the Judgment while his and Uber’s respective rights  
28

1 under the Indemnification Agreement can be determined.” *In re Levandowski*, No. 20-30242, Dkt.  
2 No. 64 at 2.

3       22. Other than Google’s claim of \$179 million for the state court judgment, the  
4 Debtor’s bankruptcy schedules list about \$3 million of other liabilities. *See id.*, Dkt. No. 138 at 7.  
5 Beyond the Indemnification Agreement, which the Debtor values at approximately \$179.5 million,  
6 the Debtor has identified assets with an approximate value of \$60 million. *See id.*, Dkt. No. 137 at  
7 10-20. Those include \$17.6 million in retirement accounts; \$15.4 million owed to him; \$10.7  
8 million in equity interests; \$7 million in trust accounts; \$5.9 million in investments in four  
9 businesses; \$3.3 million in security deposits and prepayments; and \$780,000 in vehicles, bank  
10 accounts, and insurance policy interests. *See id.* Of these assets, the Debtor has claimed about  
11 \$17.6 million—the full value of the Debtor’s retirement accounts—as exempt under California  
12 law. *See id.*, Dkt. 123 at 25.<sup>3</sup> The Debtor has also suggested that the \$7 million contained in his  
13 trust accounts are excluded from being property of the estate.

14       23. If the Debtor’s claimed exemptions and exclusions were upheld, the Debtor would  
15 have only about \$35 million of assets to satisfy his liabilities. And even if all of the Debtor’s  
16 claimed exemptions and exclusions are rejected, he cannot come close to fully repaying Google  
17 (or his other creditors) in this bankruptcy without recovering on his indemnification claim against  
18 Uber.

19       **E. Uber’s Proof of Claim**

20       24. Uber filed its proof of claim on July 8, 2020, asserting claims against the Debtor’s  
21 estate. The allowance of each of these claims requires Uber to prevail on its contention that its  
22 Indemnification Agreement with the Debtor (but not Ron) should be voided or not enforced, or  
23 that its liability to the Debtor under that agreement is somehow limited. *See Gorin Decl. Ex. D*  
24 (Uber proof of claim, Claim 8-1).

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26 <sup>3</sup> As this Court is aware, Individual Retirement Account exemptions have specific limits. Under  
27 California law (which is the law the Debtor cites in his schedules), the IRA exemption is limited to  
28 funds “reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor.” Cal.  
Civ. Proc. Code § 703.140(b)(10)(E). The Debtor’s IRA assets far exceed this limit. *See In re*  
*Rawlinson*, 209 B.R. 501, 503 n.4, 508 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1997).

1           25.     Specifically, Uber identifies five contingent claims it has against the Debtor:

- 2                 • a claim for contribution from the Debtor for its payment of Lior Ron's share
- 3                 of the arbitral award if the indemnity is rescinded (*id.* ¶¶ 3, 5);
- 4                 • a claim for recovery of the legal fees and costs Uber paid for the Debtor's
- 5                 defense of the Google arbitration if the indemnity is voided (*id.* ¶¶ 3, 6-7);
- 6                 • a claim for rescission of the fees and costs Uber incurred in litigating and
- 7                 settling the *Waymo* litigation if it is found that the Debtor "fraudulently
- 8                 induced" Uber into agreeing to sign the Indemnification Agreement and
- 9                 acquire Otto (*id.* ¶¶ 3, 8-9);
- 10                • a claim for reimbursement of the legal fees and costs Uber may incur if the
- 11                indemnity is found to be unenforceable (*id.* ¶¶ 3, 10); and
- 12                • a claim to limit the amount Uber owes under the indemnity under an
- "Excluded Claim" provision if it is held that the Indemnification Agreement
- is enforceable and cannot be voided. *Id.* ¶¶ 3, 11-13.

13     Adjudication of any of these claims will require this Court to determine whether or not the  
14     Indemnification Agreement between Uber and the Debtor is enforceable.

15           **F.     The Debtor's Proceeding Against Uber**

16           26.     On July 16, 2020, in response to Uber's proof of claim, the Debtor initiated this  
17     proceeding with a complaint against Uber objecting to Uber's proof of claim and seeking  
18     declaratory relief, specific performance and damages.

19           27.     The Debtor asserts eight different counts against Uber:

- 20                • Count I seeks a declaratory judgment that Uber has released all the claims
- 21                in its proof of claim. *See* Dkt. No. 1 (Compl.) ¶¶ 143-151. If the Debtor is
- 22                successful on his declaratory judgment action, Uber would have no claims
- 23                against the estate and would be obligated to indemnify the Debtor for
- Google's judgment.
- 24                • Count II and III seek specific performance of the Indemnification
- 25                Agreement by requiring Uber to indemnify the Debtor for the Google
- 26                judgment and all fees and cost he incurred and will incur in litigating that
- judgment. *See id.* ¶¶ 152-166, 167-182.
- 27                • Count IV seeks a declaratory judgment that Uber has no right to rescind the
- 28                Indemnification Agreement. *See id.* ¶¶ 183-193.

- Counts V, VI and VII seek relief regarding Uber’s agreement to acquire Otto Trucking LLC. *See id.* ¶¶ 194-217, 218-234, 235-245
- Count VIII is an objection to Uber’s proof of claim. *See id.* ¶¶ 246-252. The Debtor argues that all of the claims against the estate asserted by Uber in its proof of claim must fail because the Indemnification Agreement is enforceable.

28. With this motion to intervene, Google seeks to join the Debtor’s objections to Uber’s proof of claim (count VIII) and his claims seeking to enforce the Indemnification Agreement (counts I, II, III and IV).

### **III. ARGUMENT**

29. Intervention is governed by Bankruptcy Rule 7024, which incorporates Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and thus follows the same intervention analysis used in any civil action. *See In re Molasky*, 843 F.3d 1179, 1184 n.4 (9th Cir. 2016). In the Ninth Circuit, “Rule 24 is broadly construed in favor of applicants for intervention,” *Oregon Nat. Res. Council, Inc. v. Tulelake Irrigation Dist.*, 980 F.2d 738 (9th Cir. 1992), because a “liberal policy in favor of intervention serves both efficient resolution of issues and broadened access to the courts.” *U.S. v. City of Los Angeles*, 288 F.3d 391, 397-98 (9th Cir. 2002).

30. That policy, and the requirements of Rule 24, weigh heavily in favor of Google’s intervention. The Debtor does not object to this intervention, Uber will suffer no prejudice from Google’s participation, and Google’s intervention will lead to a more just and efficient outcome because it will allow all of the key issues in this bankruptcy to be resolved in one proceeding with all the key parties involved. Google’s intervention, therefore, should be allowed both as of right under Rule 24(a) and permissively under Rule 24(b).

#### **A. Google Should Be Allowed To Intervene As Of Right Under Rule 24(a)**

31. Intervention as of right is justified under Rule 24(a)(1) if Google has “an unconditional right to intervene by a federal statute” or under Rule 24(a)(2) if intervention allows Google to “protect its interests” in the proceeding. FED. R. CIV. P. 24(a)(1), (a)(2). Google’s intervention is justified under either one of those provisions.

32. First, section 1109(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides Google with the

1 unconditional statutory right to intervene. It expressly states that “a creditor” “may raise and may  
2 appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter.” 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b). Those  
3 requirements are easily satisfied—this proceeding is a “case under this chapter,” and Google is the  
4 Debtor’s largest creditor. *See In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for Puerto Rico for Puerto Rico*,  
5 872 F.3d 57, 62 (1st Cir. 2017) (holding that § 1109(b) gives an unsecured creditors’ committee an  
6 unconditional right to intervene in an adversary proceeding); *In re Caldor Corp.*, 303 F.3d 161,  
7 169 (2d Cir. 2002) (same); *Matter of Marin Motor Oil, Inc.*, 689 F.2d 445, 446 (3d Cir. 1982)  
8 (same); 7 Collier on Bankruptcy ¶ 1109.04[1][a][i]-[ii] (16th ed. 2020); *but see Fuel Oil Supply &*  
9 *Terminaling v. Gulf Oil Corp.*, 762 F.2d 1283, 1284 (5th Cir. 1985).<sup>4</sup>

10         33. Second, Google can also intervene as of right under Rule 24(a)(2). A party is  
11 entitled to intervene under that provision if: “(1) it has a significant protectable interest relating to  
12 the property or transaction that is the subject of the action; (2) the disposition of the action may, as  
13 a practical matter, impair or impede the applicant’s ability to protect its interest; (3) the application  
14 is timely; and (4) the existing parties may not adequately represent the applicant’s interest.” *City*  
15 *of Los Angeles*, 288 F.3d at 397. Courts evaluating these requirements should construe this  
16 provision “broadly in favor of proposed intervenors,” and must be “guided primarily by practical  
17 and equitable considerations.” *Id.*

18         34. Google meets all four requirements of Rule 24(a)(2). Its motion to intervene is  
19 timely, and its intervention will not prejudice the Debtor or Uber. *See Cal. Dep’t of Toxic*  
20 *Substances Control v. Commercial Realty Projects, Inc.*, 309 F.3d 1113, 1119 (9th Cir. 2002).  
21 Google moved to intervene just two weeks after the Debtor commenced the action. The Debtor—  
22 the party that brought the action—does not oppose Google’s intervention in the case. And Uber  
23 cannot point to any harm it could suffer from Google’s involvement in this proceeding.

24  
25  
26  
27 <sup>4</sup> Google is, of course, a creditor and no creditors’ committee has been appointed in this case, but  
28 section 1109(b)’s text makes no distinction between the rights of a creditor and a creditors’  
committee. Given that Google is by far the largest unsecured creditor in this case, it is particularly  
appropriate to apply the plain language of section 1109(b) here.

1           35. Google also has “significantly protectable interests” in this proceeding, and its  
2 ability to protect its interests will be impaired if it is not allowed to intervene. As the Ninth  
3 Circuit has noted, if a party ““would be substantially affected in a practical sense by the  
4 determination made in an action, he should, as a general rule, be entitled to intervene.”” *Sw. Ctr.*  
5 *for Biological Diversity v. Berg*, 268 F.3d 810, 822 (9th Cir. 2001) (*quoting* FED. R. CIV. P. 24  
6 advisory committee notes).<sup>5</sup>

7           36. Google has a strong interest in this proceeding because it is, at its heart, a  
8 proceeding to object to Uber’s proof of claim, which seeks to invalidate Google’s best source of  
9 recovery in the bankruptcy—the Indemnification Agreement that explicitly indemnified the  
10 Debtor for claims brought by Google. The Bankruptcy Code recognizes this interest by giving  
11 Google, as a creditor, the right to raise its own objections to Uber’s claims. *See* 11 U.S.C. 502(a).  
12 Indeed, Google has an “obvious” interest in being heard on the issue of whether the  
13 Indemnification Agreement must be enforced because the indemnity was crafted specifically to  
14 pay any judgment that Google might obtain against the Debtor. *Westchester Fire Ins. Co. v.*  
15 *Mendez*, 585 F.3d 1183, 1188-89 (9th Cir. 2009) (interest of airline to intervene in insurance  
16 coverage action between insurance company and maintenance company was “obvious” because  
17 airline “wants to be able to collect its judgment against [the maintenance company] from the []  
18 insurance policy and it cannot do that if [the insurance company] is not liable under that policy”);  
19 *Nat’l Union Fire Ins. Co. of Pittsburgh, PA v. Ampam Riggs Plumbing Inc.*, No. CV-14-00039-  
20 PHX-DGC, 2014 WL 1875160, at \*5 (D. Ariz. May 9, 2014) (contractor allowed to intervene in  
21 insurance coverage dispute between insurer and bankrupt subcontractor because a finding of no  
22 insurance coverage “could as a practical matter impair [contractor’s] ability to recover”).<sup>6</sup>

23  
24 <sup>5</sup> Courts generally hold that a finding of a significant protectable interest also means the  
25 applicant’s interests will be impaired if it is not allowed to intervene. *See Cal. ex rel. Lockyer v.*  
*United States*, 450 F.3d 436, 441-42 (9th Cir. 2006).

26 <sup>6</sup> *See also Assurance Co. of Am. v. MDF Framing, Inc.*, No. CV 06-00169-MO, 2006 WL  
27 8459542, at \*3 (D. Or. Apr. 7, 2006) (similar, because proposed intervenors were not just  
28 “creditors seeking to protect the collectability of a debt, rather they are the intended beneficiaries  
of the insurance policy” and without intervention, “any disposition of the action might involve a

1           37.       Finally, Google’s interests are not adequately represented if it is not allowed to  
2 intervene here. In assessing this factor, courts examine “(1) whether the interest of a present party  
3 is such that it will undoubtedly make all the intervenor’s arguments; (2) whether the present party  
4 is capable and willing to make such arguments; and (3) whether the would-be intervenor would  
5 offer any necessary elements to the proceedings that other parties would neglect.” *Nw. Forest Res.*  
6 *Council v. Glickman*, 82 F.3d 825, 838 (9th Cir. 1996), *as amended on denial of reh’g* (May 30,  
7 1996). To make this showing, Google only needs to show “that representation of its interests *may*  
8 *be inadequate*,” and “the burden of making this showing is minimal.” *Sagebrush Rebellion, Inc. v.*  
9 *Watt*, 713 F.2d 525, 528 (9th Cir. 1983) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted) (emphasis  
10 added).

11           38.       This showing is easily made here. For one, there is no certainty that the Debtor  
12 will be willing or able to pursue his claims and relief here, in what could be a long, protracted and  
13 expensive proceeding. The Debtor is also conflicted in the fight for the Uber indemnity. Based on  
14 what he alleges in his complaint, the Debtor appears to continue to harbor animus toward Google,  
15 his former employer;<sup>7</sup> and he was already found to have secretly worked with Uber’s prior  
16 management to compete illegally against Google on the very acts resulting in Google’s judgment  
17 against him. Under these circumstances, the Debtor may not adequately present all the arguments  
18 and evidence supporting the enforceability of the Uber indemnity, which ultimately is for the  
19 benefit of Google. *See, e.g., In re Catholic Bishop of Spokane*, No. ADV 04-00291, 2006 WL

20  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 practical impairment or potential disadvantage to the [contractors’] possible recovery of the state  
23 court claim” against their subcontractors); *New Hampshire Ins. Co. v. Greaves*, 110 F.R.D. 549,  
24 552-53 (D.R.I. 1986) (accident victim allowed to intervene in insurance coverage dispute between  
insurance company and insured to determine enforceability of insurance policy because if  
insurance company prevailed, then victim’s “only recourse will be against the uninsured [], who is  
without sufficient assets from which to satisfy any substantial judgment”).

25 <sup>7</sup> The Debtor’s complaint against Uber is littered with references about alleged “threats,”  
26 “animosity,” “hostility” and “attacks” from Google. *E.g.*, Dkt. No. 1 (Compl.) ¶¶ 4, 12, 39, 46.  
27 None of those allegations are true and, more to the point, have nothing to do with the indemnity  
28 dispute with Uber. Indeed, the Debtor seems more focused on trying to convince this Court that  
Google was the bad actor here, and that Uber was an unwitting business partner. That is the exact  
opposite of what the arbitral panel unanimously found in the Google-Debtor arbitration in 2019 or  
what Judge Alsup found in the Waymo-Uber litigation in 2018.

1 6817586, at \*5 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. Sept. 6, 2006) (intervention warranted where “there is animosity,  
2 mistrust and ill will” among the parties and the “level of distrust [is] extreme”); *Teague v. Bakker*,  
3 931 F.2d 259, 262 (4th Cir. 1991) (affirming intervention “[g]iven the financial constraints on the  
4 insureds’ ability to defend the present action” and the “significant chance that they might be less  
5 vigorous than the [proposed] Intervenor in defending their claim to be insureds under the  
6 [insurance] policy”); *New Hampshire Ins. Co.*, 110 F.R.D. at 553 (allowing intervention because  
7 plaintiff “lacks the financial means and the motivation to incur the significant litigation expenses”  
8 and “may not be as vigorous in his opposition of the insurer’s attempt to invalidate the policy as  
9 the [intervenors] would like”).

10 39. For example, the Debtor may not be willing or able to present all of the evidence  
11 needed to rebut Uber’s efforts to void the Indemnification Agreement because that evidence could  
12 impact his pending civil appeal of the Google judgment against him. The Debtor may also believe  
13 that more fully detailing his willful misconduct against Google would make it easier for Google to  
14 establish that Google’s claim is non-dischargeable as a debt based on a “willful and malicious  
15 injury.” 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(6); *see also In re Hamilton*, 584 B.R. 310, 314 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2018),  
16 *aff’d*, 785 F. App’x 438 (9th Cir. 2019) (former employer’s judgment for, among other things,  
17 breach of duty of loyalty and trade secret misappropriation was non-dischargeable under §  
18 523(a)(6)). Thus, even though the Debtor has a fiduciary duty to secure the greatest possible  
19 recovery for his largest creditor, his personal interest in defending against Google’s judgment and  
20 obtaining a fresh start may make it difficult for him to present all of the best arguments and  
21 evidence on the issues in this case. *See, e.g., Nazomi Commc’ns, Inc. v. Nokia Corp.*, No. SACV  
22 10-151 DOC (RNBx), 2010 WL 11508956, at \*5 (C.D. Cal. June 21, 2010) (allowing intervention  
23 because defendants may not adequately represent intervenor’s interests because they “have a  
24 strong incentive to disclaim knowledge of whether the sub-components in their products infringe  
25 [plaintiff’s] patents or blame [intervenors] for concealing the alleged infringement”).

26 40. Finally, if Uber’s indemnity were somehow found unenforceable and its claims in  
27 its proof of claim are allowed, Google may argue that any allowed Uber claim against the estate  
28 should be equitably subordinated to Google’s claim under Bankruptcy Code section 510(c). *See*

1 *In re Lazar*, 83 F.3d 306, 309 (9th Cir. 1996); *In re Enron Corp.*, 333 B.R. 205, 221 (Bankr.  
2 S.D.N.Y. 2005). Equitable subordination is an argument the Debtor, who was intimately involved  
3 in the inequitable conduct in 2015 and 2016, has not asserted. Only Google can make sure  
4 subordination is pursued in this proceeding. Moreover, because subordination of Uber's claims  
5 would be based largely on the same facts that will already be at issue in this proceeding, allowing  
6 Google to pursue that remedy as an intervenor would be an efficient and fair means of  
7 adjudicating these issues.

8 **B. Google Should Be Allowed To Permissively Intervene Under Rule 24(b)**

9 41. Permissive intervention by Google is also warranted under Rule 24(b). Permissive  
10 intervention is appropriation where the following is established: "(1) independent grounds for  
11 jurisdiction; (2) the motion is timely; and (3) the applicant's claim or defense, and the main action,  
12 have a question of law or a question of fact in common." *City of Los Angeles*, 288 F.3d at 403.

13 42. All three factors are present here. For one, there is no jurisdictional requirement for  
14 Google to permissively intervene in order to join in the Debtor's objections to Uber's claims. *See*  
15 *Freedom from Religion Found., Inc. v. Geithner*, 644 F.3d 836, 844 (9th Cir. 2011) ("Where the  
16 proposed intervenor in a federal-question case brings no new claims, the jurisdictional concern  
17 drops away."). In any event, Google has its own independent right to object to Uber's claims  
18 under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a) and to seek equitable subordination under 11 U.S.C. § 510(c). That is  
19 more than sufficient to satisfy the jurisdictional requirement of Rule 24(b), to the extent that  
20 requirement even applies. *See id.*

21 43. Also, as noted above, Google has timely brought this motion to intervene; and any  
22 claims Google will make in this proceeding share common questions of law and fact with what is  
23 already being asserted in this case by the Debtor. Google seeks to pursue some of the same  
24 objections and claims the Debtor asserts in its complaint. Like the Debtor, Google contends that  
25 Uber's indemnity is fully enforceable and that each of Uber's defenses to its enforceability lacks  
26 merit. Therefore, there is substantial overlap and so permissive intervention is well justified.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 44. For the foregoing reasons, Google respectfully asks this Court to grant Google's  
3 motion to intervene under Rule 24(a) and Rule 24(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,  
4 incorporated into these proceedings under Bankruptcy Rule 7024, so that Google may join the  
5 Debtor's objections to Uber's proof of claim (count VIII), join in the Debtor's claims seeking to  
6 enforce the Indemnification Agreement (counts I, II, III and IV), raise other claims or arguments  
7 regarding Uber's proof of claim, and otherwise be permitted to fully participate in this proceeding,  
8 including by filing motions, making and presenting arguments and evidence, taking discovery and  
9 participating fully in any trial or evidentiary hearings.

10  
11 Dated: July 31, 2020

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